

To: Board of Directors
Canadian County Cowboy Church
Yukon, OK

From: Charlie Dean, church member

Date: January 18, 2018

Subject: Homophobia: Driving People From This Church

Dear Sirs:

I am concerned about our leadership allowing a persistent effort at demonizing homosexuality. We would not demonize anyone with an obvious birthmark or deformity. We would not accuse such person of choosing to be abnormal or unnatural. It is wrong to willfully expose homosexuals to hatred or intolerance. It is just as wrong to subject others who attend this church to aggressive pressure and intimidation in an effort to make homophobes out of them.

There is a group people in positions of influence in this church who have an extreme and irrational aversion to homosexuality and homosexual people. Their aversion is poorly founded. Their ability to read the Bible, understand it, and apply it to everyday life is perhaps mediocre. Their ability to apply the Bible to homosexuality is nonexistent. This group exploits positions of leadership and influence.

No leader in this church or anyone in position of influence has any expertise in determining whether homosexuality is normal, innate or inherited, or

reversible. Yet, these homophobes speak about homosexuals as though they were experts. They have no expertise in determining whether homosexual traits are innate, but not genetic. They have no expertise in determining whether any trait is biological (rooted in physiology), or psychological.

They have no way to determine whether a genetic or non-genetic influence on homosexuality is directly or indirectly produced, or to what extent. They are unable to determine whether an innate or non-innate influence on homosexuality is directly or indirectly produced. They are unable to determine whether a biological or non-biological influence on homosexuality is directly or indirectly produced. They cannot determine if traits are behavioral. This domain is complicated for doctors who work in the field. Our group of homophobes lacks any expertise in the field, yet they behave as though they were experts.

They cannot determine whether a trait is familial or non-familial, environmentally determined or not, or if a trait is produced directly or indirectly. They are not able to determine, in the course of a person's development, which influences dominate and how their interactions affect one another. They lack the expertise to read, understand, and apply what medical science has and has not learned about the subject of homosexuality. They cannot possibly keep abreast of this domain of knowledge.

Specialists say that homosexuality results from a multifaceted mixture of genetic factors, intrauterine influences (some innate to the mother and thus present in every pregnancy, and others incidental to a given pregnancy), postnatal environment (such as parental, sibling, and cultural behavior), and

a complex series of repeatedly reinforced choices occurring at critical phases in development. Doctors who excel in this domain of medicine and behavior find it very complex. Determining which traits are biological or genetic is often beyond present research capacity. The homophobes act like they know it all.

Our group of homophobes lacks competent knowledge of incorrectly placed genes, or how this might affect human behavioral traits. They lack competent knowledge of how the endocrine, pituitary, thyroid, adrenal, pancreas, ovaries, and testes, carry various hormones throughout the body and affect the body. They have no expertise in chromosome abnormalities, malformations, sexual ambiguity, sex reversal, genetic analysis of intersex patients, pathophysiology, abnormal gonadal development and sexual ambiguity, mutations, or the sex-determining signaling molecule.

They cannot understand the interaction between genes and environmental factors. The homophobes lack the ability to scientifically determine whether homosexuality is or is not an innate behavior. They lack any expertise to decide if homosexuality is natural or unnatural. They are not capable of defining "homosexuality" for a clinical environment. They are not able to understand a complex set of variable mental, emotional, and behavioral states that are caused by differing proportions of numerous influences. The homophobes that I have listened to are so lacking in education that they cannot understand that a correlation does not imply causation.

It is disturbing to observe people who know so little about a subject who are so adamant about dictating their opinion to others. Though they are not authorities on the Bible or homosexuality, they dictate how to apply the Bible to homosexuality. They judge homosexuals with their prejudice,

preconceived ideas, lack of knowledge, lack of education, and lack of awareness. They dictate what everyone else needs and what everyone else should believe. They treat homosexuality as a one-size-fits-all problem with prayer being the solution to change everything. Their confidence exceeds their ability. They may as well be using a weegie board. This is not the way to bring people into this church.

It is sometimes possible with surgery and medication to change a few traits. Not everyone can be changed, certainly not to the satisfaction of our group of homophobes. Human nature is complex. God allows people to be born in various ways. While some traits can be chosen, nobody chooses to be demeaned and suffer a loss in dignity and respect. Some people left this church because of hurtful words and assertions regarding homosexuality. We should try to bring people into our church, not drive them away.

Each time we speak unfavorably about homosexuals, there is usually someone in the crowd who has homosexual friends or relatives. I speculate that very few if any homosexuals attend our church due to the frequent insults that I hear. Insults, especially those based on prejudice, preconceived ideas, and ignorance can have a domino effect. Repeated insults also has a cumulative effect. We should do more for our fellow human beings. Think about it.
